

Eastern Neck

National Wildlife Refuge

Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D)
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D)
Rep. Frank M. Kratovil Jr. (D-1st)

Contact

Jonathan A. Priday, Refuge Manager
Eastern Neck NWR
1730 Eastern Neck Road
Rock Hall, MD 21661
Phone: 410/639 7056
Fax: 410/639 2516
TDD: 800/785 2258
E-mail: Jonathan_Priday@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/northeast/easternneck/

Profile

First unit established: 1962
Current acres: 2,286
FY 2008 budget:
*Salaries/ops. (2 FTEs) \$180,465
*One-time project funds \$30,949
*Fire \$2,095
2008 volunteer hours: 4,741
2008 visitation: 89,764

*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

**Includes deferred maintenance, construction, equipment and biological projects

Purpose

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge was established for the protection and management of habitat for migratory birds, threatened and endangered plants and animals, and other native species.

Public Use Notes

- Visitor contact station and bookstore
- Interpretive trails (3 fully accessible boardwalks with observation towers)
- Hunting (deer and turkey)
- Fishing and crabbing
- Public boat ramp (county permit)
- Environmental education

Management Activities

- Managing 11 water impoundments to provide migratory bird habitat
- Managing a cooperative farming program on 570 acres to provide food for migratory birds
- Enhancing migratory bird habitat through prescribed burning and reforestation projects
- Monitoring and protecting nesting bald eagles and their habitat
- Maintaining nest boxes and platforms for bluebirds, wood ducks and osprey
- Controlling invasive/exotic species
- Administering public hunts to introduce youths to hunting and to control the refuge deer population
- Restoring wetland and upland habitats on and adjacent to the refuge



Heather Davidson

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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Highlights

From October through April, migratory waterfowl, including tundra swans, geese and ducks, frequent the refuge.

Shorebirds, wading and marsh birds such as herons, egrets and rails, can be seen along the refuge's shores and marshes throughout the year.

The refuge provides crucial spawning habitat for blue crabs, horseshoe crabs, rockfish, and terrapins.

A historic hunting lodge has been renovated as a visitor center and office.

The refuge has implemented renewable energy technologies using solar panels and wind turbine to serve as a demonstration project for the public and government agencies.

Issues

The refuge's marshland and beach shorelines continue to erode at an alarming rate.

The refuge is being considered as a beneficial use site for the placement of clean dredge soil material to protect 108 acres of sensitive submerged aquatic vegetation and 432 acres of coastal wetlands.

Mute swans, phragmites and other exotic plants and animals impact native species and their habitat.

Submerged aquatic vegetation is disappearing around the refuge in the Chesapeake Bay and in the Chester River.

